

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 11, 13, 16, and 17 are amended by this Response and are reproduced for the Examiner's convenience above. Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the amended claims and following remarks.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 through 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Matthews, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,025,837). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Anticipation requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each element of the claim under consideration. *W.L. Gore & Assocs. v. Garlock*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 USPQ 303 (Fed. Cir. 1983), *cert. denied*, 469 U.S. 851 (1984). Further, “anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim.” *Lindemann Maschinenfabrik BmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co.*, 730 F.2d 1452, 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1982) (citing *Connell v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 722 F.2d 1542, 220 USPQ 193 (Fed. Cir. 1984)) (emphasis added).

Amended independent claims 1, 6, and 11 recite maintenance of “a subset of program information for at least one related program of a given program with program information for the given program in an information handling system” and “providing information associated with the subset of program information for the at least one related program.” (emphasis added). The amended independent claim 16 recites maintenance of “a subset of program information for at least one related program of a given program with program information for the given program in an electronic program guide (EPG)” and “providing information associated with the subset of program information for the at least one related program.” (emphasis added). For example, the information associated with the subset of program information for the at least one related program may include: “episodes of recurring programs, segments of a multi-part program, programs with similar content, and programs related through an intermediate program An example of the last type of relationship could be a program that has content about

bears' feeding habits, including eating salmon. The bear program could be related to a program about stocking fish, including salmon, which is further related to a program about fishing in artificially stocked rivers.” (Specification, page 2, lines 7-13; page 12, line 16 to page 13, line 15) (emphasis added). Thus, the present invention provides information concerning related programs to the given program, however, the present invention also provides information on programs related, through the related programs, to the given program.

By contrast, the Matthews reference fails to disclose, teach or suggest providing information associated with the subset of program information for the at least one related program to a user (emphasis added). Instead Matthews discloses in column 9, line 56 to column 10, line 13 maintenance of a subset of program information for at least one related program. This passage reads:

The EPG UI 110 also includes hyperlinks 140 integrated as part of the grid. The hyperlinks are supplied with the program records received from the headend 22. These hyperlinks can be inserted into the channel tiles 122, program tiles 124, or the description window 128. In the FIG. 5 illustration, the hyperlink “More” is provided in the description window 128 to reference target resources that contain additional information about this episode of the Seinfeld show. Other Hyperlinks in the description window 128 include “Last Week” which references a target resource containing information on the previous week episode, and “comedy club” which links to a target resource having video coverage of comedian Jerry Seinfeld performing at night clubs. The target resources referenced by the hyperlinks might be located at the headend (FIG. 1 implementation), or at an independent service provider (FIG. 3 implementation). The target resource might further be located locally, having been pre-cached by the system. For instance, the system might pre-cache supplemental information about certain shows before they air based on predictive viewing tendencies, or as part of a promotional data broadcast advertising the show. This permits local interactive functionality between the viewer and viewer computing unit, in addition to full network interactive functionality between the viewer and the program provider.

Matthews column 9, line 56 to column 10, line 13 (emphasis added). However, this “additional information about this episode” in the Matthews reference does not include maintaining program information for a related program; instead the program information provides “supplemental information” about the selected program itself. The scope of this

supplemental information, accessible through the hyperlinks, is described in the Matthews reference at FIG. 1 and column 7, lines 16 through 21. This passage reads:

Examples of possible supplemental content include interactive questions or games related to the program, additional trivia on the movies or TV shows, advertisements, available merchandise or other memorabilia, Web pages to programs of similar type or starring the same actors/actresses, and so on.

Matthews column 7, lines 16 through 21. The “hyperlinks” in the Matthews reference are provided for the purpose of helping a viewer to identify Web sites associated with a particular program. This is described in the Matthews reference column 4, lines 59-65. This passage reads:

By integrating the hyperlinks within the EPG UI, the viewer can readily identify supplemental information to the programs and access that information directly from the EPG. The viewer no longer needs to remember that there may be a Web site associated with a particular program or channel, nor is the viewer relegated to surfing the Internet from a separate machine to find any related content.

Matthews column 4, lines 59-67 (emphasis added). This identifies that the purpose of these hyperlinks, in the Matthews reference, is to provide Internet access to Web sites through the EPG, not maintain a subset of information on at least one related program.

Additionally, Matthews discloses in column 8, lines 52-67 maintenance of a subset of program information for at least one related program. This passage reads:

A channel navigator application 102 is stored in program memory 96 and executes on the processor 92 to control the tuner(s) 98 and 100 to select a desired channel for receiving the video content programs. An EPG application 104 is stored in program memory 96 and executes on the processor 92 to organize programming information downloaded from the EPG server at the headend. The EPG 104 supports a displayable user interface (UI) which visually correlates programs titles to scheduled viewing times and tuning information, such as a channel, as will be described below with reference to FIG. 5. The user interface unit 90 also has a browser 106 which is kept in memory 96 and dynamically loaded on processor 92 when needed to render content, such as a hypertext document, from an ISP or other content provider. The browser can be implemented as a hyperlink browser, or more particularly, as an Internet Web browser.

Matthews, column 8, lines 52-67 (emphasis added). However, this “EPG application” in the Matthews reference does not include maintaining program information for a related program. Instead, it includes organizing “programming information downloaded from the EPG server at the headend” and supporting “a displayable user interface.” In other words, the application 104 in Matthews only inserts the appropriate data records it receives in the appropriate location of the EPG user interface. As discussed above, the “More” hyperlink, which application 104 is responsible for appropriately locating, provides “supplemental information” regarding only the selected program and does not maintain a subset of program information for at least one related program. Thus, a user of the system disclosed in Matthews is not able to retrieve a subset of program information for at least one related program of the given program, as recited in independent claims 1, 6, 11 and 16, and the claims depending therefrom.

Dependent claims 2 through 5, 7 through 10, 12 through 15, and 17 through 19 are believed to be allowable based on dependence from the amended claims 1, 6, 11, and 16.

Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) be withdrawn and pending claims 1-19 be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In light of the forgoing, reconsideration, entry of the amended claims, and allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) A method for performing events for related programs, comprising [the actions of]:
 - maintaining a subset of program information for at least one
 - related program of a given program with program information for the given program in an information handling system;
 - providing information associated with the subset of program information for the at least one related program; and
 - performing at least one program event for the given program and, based upon the subset of program information, the at least one related program.

3. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising [the actions of]:
 - [providing information associated with the subset of program information for the at least one related program to a user;]
 - obtaining user input based on the information provided; and
 - performing program events based on the user input.

6. (Amended) A system for performing events for related programs, comprising:
 - at least one processor;
 - memory operably associated with said processor; and
 - a program of instructions configured to be executed by said processor and stored in said memory, said program of instructions including instructions configured to maintain a subset of program information for at least one related program of a given program with program information for the given program in an information handling system, provide information associated with the subset of program information for the at least one related program, and perform at least one program event for the given program and, based upon the subset of program information, perform at least one program event for the at least one

related program and the information associated with the subset of program information for the at least one related program.

8. (Amended) The system of Claim 6 wherein said program of instructions further includes:
[instructions configured to provide information associated with the subset of program information for the at least one related program to a user;]
instructions configured to obtain user input based on the information provided; and
instruction configured to perform program events based on the user input.

11. (Amended) A computer readable medium tangibly embodying a program of instructions implementing the following method:
maintaining a subset of program information for at least one related program of a given program with program information for the given program in an information handling system; [and]
providing information associated with the subset of program information for the at least one related program; and
performing at least one program event for the given program and based upon the subset of program information, the at least one related program.

13. (Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 11 wherein said program of instruction further implements:
[providing information associated with the subset of program information for the at least one related program to a user;]
obtaining user input based on the information provided; and
performing program events based on the user input.

16. (Amended) A signal tangibly embodied in a propagation medium comprising:
- at least one instruction configured to maintain, in an electronic program guide (EPG), a subset of program information for at least one related program of a given program with program information for the given program; [and]
 - at least one instruction configured to provide information associated with the subset of program information for the at least one related program; and
 - at least one instruction configured to perform at least one program event for the given program and, based upon the subset of program information, the at least one related program[.] and the information associated with the subset of program information for the at least one related program.
17. (Amended) The signal of Claim 16 wherein said program of instructions further comprises at least one instruction configured to [provide information associated with the subset of program information for the at least one related program to a user, and] obtain user input based on the information provided[.] and at least one instruction configured to perform the program events based on user input.